GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3912
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014
DEEP SEA FISHING
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fishermen in the country are facing problems in deep sea fishing due to lack of adequate technology and proper deep sea fishing vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the vessels procured for deep sea fishing have been lying unutilised for the last several years;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether deep sea fishing in the country has come to a grinding halt due to certain conditions imposed by the Government for having foreign collaboration in this field and if so, the corrective steps taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR.CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a)&(b): Indian fishermen are not able to exploit the deep sea fishery resources optimally due to lack of resource specific Deep Sea Fishing Vessels (DSFVs), which are required for undertaking deep sea fishing operations. The country also lacks specialized skill required for such fishing operations. The "Guidelines for fishing operations in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone" addresses this issue by (i) allowing import of DSFVs and (ii) by various training programmes.

(c)to(e): The Government issues Letter of Permit (LOP) to Indian entrepreneurs allowing them to fish in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Till date there are 66 valid LOPs issued to 20 companies. As on 31.12.2013, 14 DSFVs of 4 companies are in operation. The fishing operations in EEZ were adversely affected since 2011 because of restrictions imposed on engagement of foreign crew onboard these DSFVs and the requirement of a minimum salary of $ 25000 per annum as a condition for grant of security clearance. These conditions have been relaxed till 30.4.2014. An Expert Committee has been constituted on 1.8.2013 for comprehensive review of deep sea fishing policy and guidelines.